

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 311909Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5429

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MX CU AG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REFS: A) MEXICO 8117 B) MEXICO 8191

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 27, PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA ANNOUNCED THAT HE DOES NOT PLAN TO TRAVEL ABROAD IN 1975. HE SAID THE COMING YEAR WILL BE ONE OF WORK WITHIN MEXICO TO SOLVE THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FACING THE COUNTRY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT NUMEROUS FOREIGN LEADERS WILL VISIT MEXICO, INCLUDING THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND, VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, THE SHAH OF IRAN (DURING MAY) AND ABOUT A DOZEN CHIEFS OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS FOR A CLUB OF ROME MEETING IN GUANAJUATO (SEE SEPTTEL). COMMENT: SINCE ONE OF FONSEC RABASA'S ANNOUNCED PROPOSALS IN TRAVELING TO THE NEAR EAST AND AFRICA LAST SEPTEMBER WAS TO PREPARE FOR A PROBABLE VISIT TO THE AREA BY ECHEVERRIA IN 1975 (SEE REFTTEL A), THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WILL NOT TRAVEL APPEARS TO BE A REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS INTENTIONS. IT IS MUCH TOO EARLY EITHER TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR THIS APPARENT SHIFT WITH CONFIDENCE OR TO DETERMINE WHETHER

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HE REALLY WILL RESIST THE TEMPTATION OF FOREIGN TRAVEL.

SINCE THE INQUIRY TO WHICH ECHEVERRIA RESPONDED NOTED HE HAS AN INVITATION FROM CASTRO, HIS UNEQUIVOCAL REPLY SHOULD LAY TO REST SPECULATION ON THIS SCORE FOR AT LEAST A FEW MONTHS.

2. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT HIS INTEREST IN THE NOBEL PRIZE AND IN A LEADERSHIP POSITION IN AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, ECHEVERRIA DENIED THAT HE COVETS EITHER. POINTING OUT THAT THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES WAS THE LABOR OF 40 NATIONS AND SUPPORTED BY 120 NATIONS, HE PROFESSED TO SEE NO REASON WHY HIS ROLE IN PROMOTING THE CHARTER SHOULD ENTITLE HIM TO EITHER DISTINCTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE. COMMENT: DESPITE ECHEVERRIA'S DISCLAIMERS, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY PREVIOUS HINTS FROM GOM SOURCES, IN ADDITION TO USUAL RUMORS (SEE REFTEL B), THAT THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT ASPIRES TO ONE OR BOTH THESE HONORS. JOVA

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